

Application No.: 10/773 551
Amendment dated September 15, 2006
Reply to Final Office Action of June 16, 2006

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Amendments to the Claims

The following claim listing reflects the status of the claims pending in this application.

1. **(Currently Amended)** A brace for supporting an arm of an ornamental fixture, the arm having a lower surface, the brace comprising:

an elongated element having a first end adapted to mount to a support, a free second end, and an upper surface that substantially conforms to ~~[[a]]~~ the lower surface of the arm of the ornamental fixture; and

at least one platform located between the first end and the second end, the platform adapted to support the arm of the fixture.

2. **(Cancelled)**

3. **(Original)** The brace as recited in claim 1, wherein the platform comprises a plate mounted to the brace.

4. **(Original)** The brace as recited in claim 3, wherein the plate comprises a perforated plate adapted to mount on one or more projections on the elongated element.

5. **(Cancelled)**

6. **(Currently Amended)** The brace as recited in claim 1, wherein the upper surface of the ~~the~~ elongated element conforms to a sinuous lower surface of the arm.

7. **(Original)** The brace as recited in claim 1, wherein the elongated element comprises at least one perforation.

8. **(Original)** The brace as recited in claim 1, wherein the elongated element comprises a thickness between about 0.10 inches and about 3.0 inches.

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9. **(Original)** The brace as recited in claim 1, wherein the elongated element further comprises at least one ornament mounting hook arrangement.

10. **(Cancelled)**

11. **(Original)** The brace as recited in claim 1, wherein the platform comprises a surface on the elongated element.

12. **(Currently Amended)** An arrangement for supporting a decorative fixture, the arrangement comprising:

an arm made from a brittle material having a first end adapted to mount to a support and a second free end adapted for mounting the decorative fixture; and

a brace for supporting the arm, the brace comprising:

an elongated element having a first end adapted to mount to the support and a free second end; and

at least one platform mounted to the elongated element and located between the first end and the second end of the arm and distal the first end of the arm, the platform adapted to support the arm.

13. **(Previously Presented)** The arrangement recited in claim 12, wherein the arm comprises a lower surface and the elongated element comprises an upper surface shaped to substantially conform to the lower surface of the arm.

14. **(Previously Presented)** The arrangement recited in claim 12, wherein the lower surface of the arm comprises a sinuous lower surface and wherein the upper surface of the elongated element substantially conforms to the sinuous lower surface of the arm.

15. **(Original)** The arrangement recited in claim 12, further comprising at least one means for mounting an ornament to the brace.

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16. **(Original)** The arrangement recited in claim 15, wherein the at least one means for mounting an ornament to the brace comprises a u-shaped channel in the elongated element.

17. **(Previously Presented)** An arrangement for supporting a decorative fixture, the arrangement comprising:

a glass arm having a first end adapted to mount to a support and a second free end adapted for mounting the decorative fixture;

a brace for supporting the glass arm, the brace comprising:

an elongated element having a first end adapted to mount to the support and a free second end; and

at least one platform located between the first end and the second end of the elongated element, the platform adapted to support the glass arm; and

a cushioning material located on the platform.

18. **(Currently Amended)** A method of supporting an arm of an ornamental fixture, the arm having a first end and a second end, the method comprising:

providing a brace comprising an elongated element having a first end adapted to mount to a support and a free second end, and at least one platform adapted to support the arm of the fixture;

mounting the first end of the brace to [[a]] the support; and

mounting the arm of the ornamental fixture to the support and to the brace wherein the arm is supported by the at least one platform at a location distal the first end of the arm.

19. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 18, wherein the arm of the ornamental fixture comprises a sinuous lower surface and the brace comprises a sinuous upper surface, wherein mounting the arm of the ornamental fixture further

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comprises substantially mating the lower surface of the arm with the upper surface of the brace.

20. **(Currently Amended)** A method of supporting an arm of an ornamental fixture, the method comprising:

providing a brace comprising an elongated element having a first end adapted to mount to a support and a free second end, and at least one platform located between the first end and the second end, the platform adapted to support the arm of the fixture:

mounting the first end of the brace to ~~[[a]]~~ the support;

mounting the arm of the ornamental fixture to the support and to the brace wherein the arm is supported by the at least one platform; and

positioning a cushioning material between the arm and the platform of the brace.

21. **(Currently Amended)** The brace as recited in claim 1, wherein the elongated element comprises a curvilinear upper surface that substantially conforms to ~~[[a]]~~ the lower surface of the arm for at least half the length of the arm.

22. **(Previous / Presented)** The arrangement recited in claim 12, wherein the brittle material comprises a glass.

23. **(Previous / Presented)** The arrangement recited in claim 12, wherein the arm comprises a length, and wherein the platform is located at least half the length from the first end of the arm.

24. **(Currently Amended)** The arrangement recited in ~~claim 18~~ claim 12, wherein the arm comprises a length, and wherein the arm is supported by the at least one platform at a location at least half the length from the first end of the arm.